United Nations E/CN.6/2012/NGO/43

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 December 2011

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-sixth session
27 February-9 March 2012
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern, and further actions and initiatives; priority theme: "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges"

Statement submitted by International Network of Liberal Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2012/1.

11-61872 (E) 221211

Please recycle

Statement

Review theme: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

The activities of International Network of Liberal Women are inspired by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization uses those principles, which are the basis for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The main objectives of the organization are to develop awareness of women concerning their rights and political, economic, social and cultural responsibilities, to reinforce the relationships and the exchange among women from all over the world and to promote the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The International Network of Liberal Women notes the following:

- That the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- That the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women contained therein were treated in the United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions.
- That the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women has helped to reinforce the gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- That, in some countries, there is an inappropriate distribution of human and economic resources and, in some areas, there is a poor comprehension of the political significance of equal opportunities for men and women concerning topics such as the participation of women in democracy and women's human rights and, consequently, there is a lack of political will and a lack of legal measures to establish efficient implementation.

The International Network of Liberal Women therefore proposes for review:

- That proven experiences of investing in women and girls have a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency, sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty, especially among women.
- Analyses of revenues and expenditures in all policy areas in order to enhance the contribution of Government expenditure and accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- The allocation of adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace, including unequal access to labour market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men.
- The development, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-positive policies and programmes, as well as legislative and administrative reforms aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship and private initiative, including through microfinance, microcredit and

cooperatives, and assistance to women-owned businesses in participating and benefiting from, inter alia, international trade, technological innovation and transfer, investment, knowledge and skills training.

The International Network of Liberal Women also proposes to:

- Urge developed countries that have not yet done so, in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the target of dedicating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance for developing countries.
- Ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Enable the full representation and full equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making and governance, in particular in economic and public finance policies, in order to guarantee the formulation of all plans, programmes and policies.

Conclusion

The added experience brought by women can be a source of hope for the future. If they are given the opportunity and allowed to act, women are well placed to meet the challenges that the future brings us.